

Message Text

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ORIGIN EA-06

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

AMEMBASSY MANILA

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 115856

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS, PINT, VS

SUBJECT: FRENCH ACCOUNT OF SITUATION IN VIET-NAM

THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION ON SOUTH VIET-NAM, BASED ON REPORTS FROM FRENCH EMBASSY SAIGON WHICH THE FRENCH HAVE PASSED TO US HERE, IS PROVIDED FOR YOUR BACKGROUND USE.

1. POPULATION REMAINS PASSIVE BUT NOT HOSTILE TO NEW RULERS. THERE ARE MORE ARMED TROOPS IN THE CITY THAN BEFORE. SOLDIERS ARE YOUNG AND COURTEOUS.

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2. AS FAR AS CAN BE DETERMINED, THERE HAVE BEEN NO POLI-

TICAL ARRESTS AND NO EXECUTIONS IN SAIGON.

3. ON FOUR OR FIVE OCCASIONS, UNIDENTIFIED OFFICIALS HAVE COME TO THE EMBASSY TO INQUIRE WHETHER THERE ARE ANY POLITICAL REFUGEES ON THE PREMISES.

4. FRENCH BUSINESSMEN HAVE BEEN CONTACTED AND ASKED FOR INVENTORIES, ACCOUNTS, ETC. THOSE OFFICIALS SEEKING SUCH INFORMATION HAVE INDICATED THEIR INTENTION TO GET IN TOUCH WITH THE FRENCH COMMERCIAL COUNSELOR BUT HAVE NOT YET DONE SO.

5. A COMMITTEE FOR EXTERNAL RELATIONS HAS BEEN SET UP IN THE OLD MFA BUILDING. THIS COMMITTEE HAS NOTIFIED THE EMBASSY THAT IT WILL SOON LET THE EMBASSY KNOW HOW THE COMMITTEE WILL FUNCTION.

6. THE POLISH AND HUNGARIAN HEADS OF ICCS DELEGATIONS HAVE DEPARTED, BUT HAVE LEFT "REPRESENTATIVES OF THEIR FOREIGN MINISTRIES" IN SAIGON.

7. THERE ARE TWO HYPOTHESES AS TO HOW THE COMMUNIST AUTHORITIES ARE PROCEEDING (NEITHER OF WHICH THE FRENCH EMBASSY DEFENDS OR DISCARDS):

A. THE HANOI/PRG AUTHORITIES ARE MOVING WITH DELIBERATE SPEED TO SET UP A GOVERNMENT IN SAIGON; OR

B. THE FAILURE TO ESTABLISH A GOVERNMENT IN SAIGON RESULTS FROM STRONG DISAGREEMENTS BETWEEN PRG AND HANOI AUTHORITIES AS TO HOW TO PROCEED.

8. FRENCH AS SOURCE OF ABOVE INFORMATION SHOULD BE PROTECTED. KISSINGER

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